

Remarks/Arguments

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 3, 4, 11, 13, 14, 21, 23 and 24, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Leung et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0095673 A1, hereinafter referred to as “Leung”), in view of Ganzer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,121,430, hereinafter referred to as “Ganzer”).

It is respectfully asserted that neither Leung nor Ganzer, alone or in combination, discloses the step of:

“responsive to a determination that said estimate of the duration of said detected power interruption exceeded said predetermined threshold, enabling a user to provide updated information comprising location information associated with the emergency alert function responsive to detecting said power interruption,”

as described in claim 1.

Neither of the cited references teaches or suggests a user providing updated information of any kind, let alone location information, in response to a power interruption, particularly one exceeding a certain time duration. A request for entry of a previously set password, as in Leung, is not a request for updated information. Furthermore, neither Leung nor Ganzer, alone or in combination, would provide the advantage of the present invention of maintaining the usefulness of a location-sensitive emergency alert function by automatically prompting a user for new location information after a significant power interruption. It is also respectfully asserted that there is no suggestion or motivation shown to modify the teachings of Leung with the teachings of Ganzer. Neither of the references suggests the problem of a television being relocated, or that a power interruption could indicate such relocation, or that such relocation could interfere with the operation of an emergency alert function.

Leung teaches a “method and apparatus for exercising access control over television programs using a parental control user interface that has different functions is provided. The method requires a password to enter into a master mode for obtaining access to all the functions of the parental control user interface. Once in the master mode, the user may enter a criterion for blocking a television program from being viewed or recorded or the user can override an already blocked television program. If a user, not in the master mode, attempts to watch or record a program that meets the blocking criterion and the program does not meet the overriding criterion, a prompt is provided to the user to enter the password. Upon entering a correct password, the program is unblocked.” (Leung Abstract)

Leung teaches giving a user two choices of power outage settings. One denies all access to the TV until the master password is input. The other allows access to everything not saved in EE ROM. A power failure notice is presented every time the TV is powered on until the master password is input. (Leung, paragraphs 166-169)

Applicant respectfully disagrees with Examiner’s assertion that Leung discloses “enabling the user to provide updated information associated with said function responsive to detecting said power interruption,” (Office Action, page 5) Leung asks for the previously set password, not for updated information. Furthermore, Leung does not describe enabling a user to provide location information to the device after detecting a power interruption, particularly one exceeding a predetermined duration. Thus, Leung fails to disclose the step of “responsive to a determination that said estimate of the duration of said detected power interruption exceeded said predetermined threshold, enabling a user to provide updated information comprising location information associated with the emergency alert function responsive to detecting said power interruption,,” as described in claim 1. Furthermore, Leung, even combined with Ganzer, would fail to provide the advantages of the present invention of obtaining up-to-date location information after a power interruption to help ensure useful, geographically-relevant operation of the emergency alert function.

Ganzer teaches a geographically specific emergency alert system which “includes a code generator unit in which geographic areas to be alerted and types of severity of alerts

are selected and code strings generated to represent the affected areas and alert types selected. The code strings are broadcast by modulating the audio carrier of a television signal and received on receiver units positioned in areas within the broadcast market of a television station providing the alerting service. Location codes or [sic] entered into the receiver units by the users according to the areas in which the receiver units are used. When an alert is broadcast, each receiver unit decodes a location code string in the signal. If it matches that set on the receiver, an alert code string is decoded to activate a alarm devices connected to the receiver, such as an audible alarm generator, LED, etc., in accordance with the type or severity of alert that was broadcast.” (Ganzer Abstract)

Ganzer discloses the use of a nine volt battery backup and the use of a low battery alert to inform the user when the battery needs to be replaced. Ganzer does not, however, disclose obtaining new location information from the user after a power interruption has been detected, particularly one exceeding a predetermined duration. Thus, Ganzer, like Leung, fails to disclose the step of “responsive to a determination that said estimate of the duration of said detected power interruption exceeded said predetermined threshold, enabling a user to provide updated information comprising location information associated with the emergency alert function responsive to detecting said power interruption,” as described in claim 1. Furthermore, Ganzer, like Leung, fails to address, or even identify, the issue of location information becoming irrelevant in the event of relocation of the device, or the need to prompt a user for new location information after a possible relocation indicated by a power interruption.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that there is no 35 USC 112 enabling disclosure provided by Leung or Ganzer, which makes the present invention as claimed in claim 1 unpatentable. It is further submitted that independent claims 11 and 21, are allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable. Since dependent claims 3-4, 13-14, and 23-25, are dependent from allowable independent claims 1, 11 and 21, it is submitted that they too are allowable for at least the same reasons that their respective independent claims are allowable. Thus, it is further respectfully submitted that this rejection has been satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Claims 5, 15, 25 and 26, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Leung and Ganzer, and further in view of Hayes (U.S. Patent No. 4,718,107).

Hayes teaches a controller in a CATV converter which “provides three operating modes comprising: (1) a family viewing mode in which conversion of selected channels is blocked; (2) an enter access code mode for selecting the channels to be blocked from family viewing; and (3) a parental control mode in which all channels may be viewed. The family viewing mode is enabled by turn-on of the converter or by commands by the user or the CATV system operator. The enter access code mode is initiated by a user command. The parental control mode is enabled by user entry of a valid access code or when a new access code is created while in the enter access code mode.” (Hayes Abstract)

Hayes, like Ganzer and Leung, fails to disclose the step of “responsive to a determination that said estimate of the duration of said detected power interruption exceeded said predetermined threshold, enabling a user to provide updated information comprising location information associated with the emergency alert function responsive to detecting said power interruption,” as described in claim 1. Furthermore, dependent claims 5, 15, 25, and 26 have been cancelled. Thus, it is further respectfully submitted that this rejection has been satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 11, 13, 14, 21, 23 and 24, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suh (U.S. Patent No. 5,867,224), in view of Ganzer.

Claims 5, 15, 25, and 26, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suh and Ganzer and further in view of Hayes.

It is respectfully asserted that none of Suh, Ganzer, or Hayes, alone or in combination, discloses the step of:

“responsive to a determination that said estimate of the duration of said detected power interruption exceeded said predetermined threshold, enabling a user to provide updated information comprising location information associated with the emergency alert function responsive to detecting said power interruption,”

as described in claim 1.

Suh discloses that “when power is restored after a loss of power; an intelligent TV can receive communication services with correct current time information by displaying the clock set menu for resetting the current time by (a) checking for the presence of time information to determine whether there has been a loss of power; (b) displaying a clock set menu screen to enable resetting of the current time if a loss of power is detected in the step (a); and (c) transmitting the reset current time information to the information signal processor of the intelligent TV. Also, in the present invention, a message alerting the user that the current time should be reset gives the user the option to reset the current time when power is restored after a loss of power, by (aa) checking for the presence of time information to determine whether there has been a loss of power; (bb) displaying a message indicating that the current time should be reset if a loss of power is detected in step (aa); (cc) resetting the current time by displaying the clock set menu screen in accordance with a key input; and (dd) transmitting the reset current time data to the information signal processor of the intelligent TV.” (Suh Abstract)

Suh discloses detecting a power interruption, but does not teach or suggest determining the duration of the interruption or enabling an update by the user if the duration exceeds a threshold. (Suh column 5, lines 38-44) Thus, Suh, like Ganzer and Hayes, fails to disclose the step of “responsive to a determination that said estimate of the duration of said detected power interruption exceeded said predetermined threshold, enabling a user to provide updated information comprising location information associated with the emergency alert function responsive to detecting said power interruption,” as described in claim 1.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that there is no 35 USC 112 enabling disclosure provided by Suh, Ganzer, or Hayes, which makes the present invention as claimed in claim 1 unpatentable. It is further submitted that independent claims 11 and 21, are allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable. Since dependent claims 3-4, 13-14, and 23-24, are dependent from allowable independent claims 1, 11 and 21, it is submitted that they too are allowable for at least the same reasons that their respective independent claims are allowable. Thus, it is further respectfully submitted that this rejection has been satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections, it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's representative at (609) 734-6804, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the additional fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,
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